



TALKING WITH DAVID: 2001

NO. 76  
APR '01

ROBINSON  
SNEJBERG

# STARMAN



ROBINSON  
2000





WHERE  
HAVE YOU BEEN,  
DAVEY?



I MEAN... IT'S BEEN A WHILE. I  
THOUGHT MAYBE AFTER OUR  
DINNER WITH DAD'S DEAD FRIENDS,  
YOU MIGHT HAVE "GONE ON," IF  
THAT'S THE *RIGHT* TERM. GONE  
TO *WHEREVER* YOU'RE MEANT  
TO GO.

I'VE BEEN BACK  
EVERY YEAR, BRO.  
LIKE I SAID I WOULD.  
IT'S JUST THAT IT  
WASN'T YOU I  
VISITED.



WHO? DAD?

MIKAAL. HE'S  
A SPECIAL GUY.

WHY  
HIM?

HE NEEDED MY  
WORDS OF ADVICE. I  
KNEW YOU'D DO  
JUST FINE.

SO WHY  
VISIT ME  
THIS TIME?



BECAUSE OUR DINNER MEETING  
*ISN'T* THE LAST TIME YOU'LL  
SEE ME...

...BUT THIS  
*IS*. IT HAS  
TO BE.



I *DON'T* UNDERSTAND.

I'LL EXPLAIN AS  
WE GO.

OH YEAH, I  
FORGOT... *GOD*  
FORBID ANYTHING'S  
OPEN AND SHUT  
WITH YOU.



OKAY, I'LL *BITE*. I KNOW  
ENOUGH TO WAIT FOR  
WHATEVER'S MEANT  
TO COME.

JUST YOU AND ME  
THIS TIME? NO DEAD  
HEROES?

YEAH. *ONE*.  
THE *GREATEST*  
HERO WHO EVER  
LIVED...



...AT LEAST  
AS FAR AS *WE'RE*  
CONCERNED.





DAD!!

HELLO, JACK. I'M SO HAPPY TO SEE YOU ONE LAST TIME.

# TALKING WITH DAVID (AND TED)

ROBINSON	SNEJBORG	OAKLEY	WRIGHT	JAMISON	TOMASI	GOODWIN
writer	artist	letterer	colorist	seps	editor	guiding light





DAVEY, THIS IS...  
**WONDERFUL!!**

YEAH, WELL,  
LIKE I SAID, IT'S  
THE **LAST** TIME, SO  
ENJOY IT WHILE  
YOU CAN.



WHY IS  
THIS THE **FINAL**  
TIME?

I GUESS  
IT'S TIME TO  
**EXPLAIN.**



YOU AND I HAVE BEEN MEETING  
BECAUSE OF **TWO** THINGS. ONE,  
JON VALOR'S **CURSE**. IT KEPT  
MY SPIRIT CLOSE TO YOU.

KEPT SOME ESSENCE OF  
**ME** WITHIN YOUR HEART.

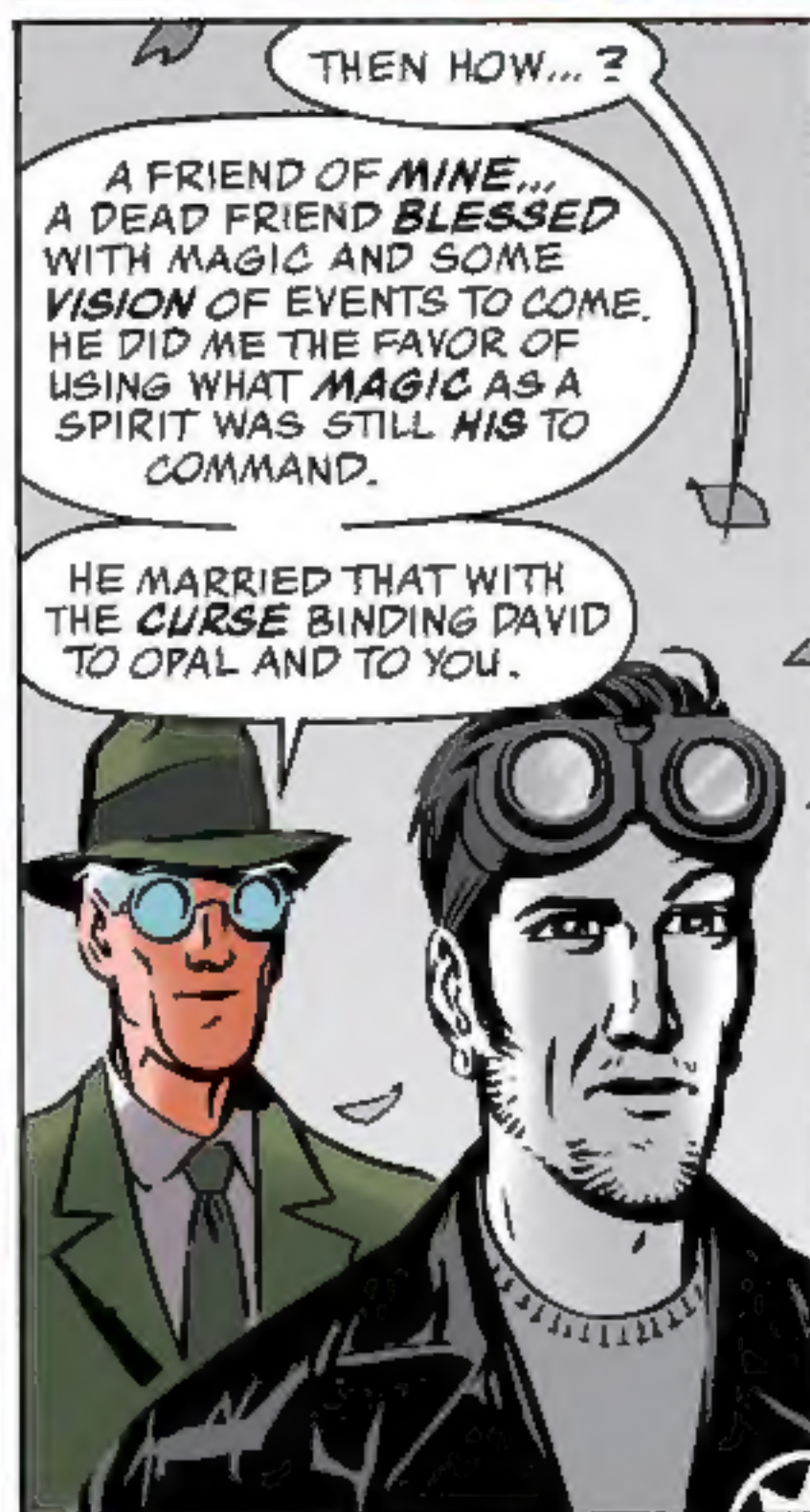
I **COULDN'T**  
GO ON TO AN  
AFTERLIFE. I WAS  
STUCK **HERE** WITH  
EVERY **OTHER**  
POOR SOUL.



AND THAT ALLOWED YOU TO  
**RETURN** EVERY YEAR?

NO. IF **THAT** WAS ENOUGH,  
**EVERY** DEAD PERSON KEPT  
WITHIN OPAL'S BORDERS--  
AND YOU HAVE **NO** IDEA HOW  
MANY THERE WERE-- WOULD  
HAVE HAD THE **SAME**  
POWER.

OPAL WOULD  
HAVE BEEN  
ONE **HAUNTED**  
PLACE.



THEN HOW...?

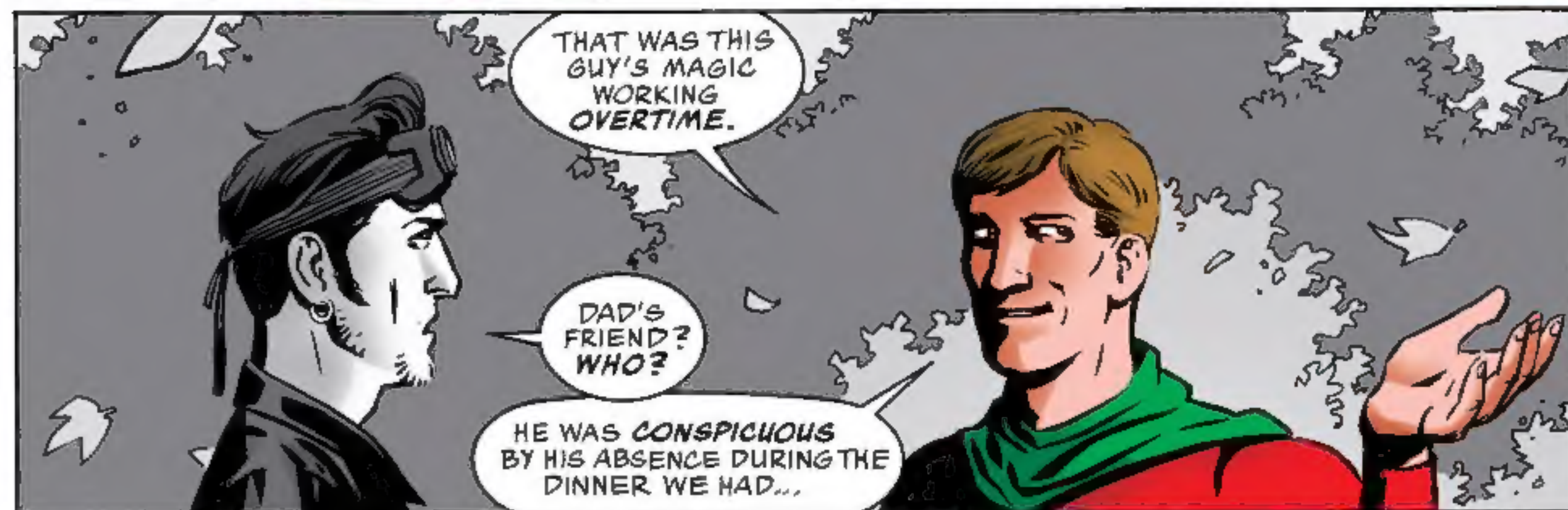
A FRIEND OF **MINE**...  
A DEAD FRIEND **BLESSED**  
WITH MAGIC AND SOME  
**VISION** OF EVENTS TO COME.  
HE DID ME THE FAVOR OF  
USING WHAT **MAGIC** AS A  
SPIRIT WAS STILL **HIS** TO  
COMMAND.

HE MARRIED THAT WITH  
THE **CURSE** BINDING DAVID  
TO OPAL AND TO YOU.



AND THAT WAS **HOW**, YEAR BY  
YEAR, I MADE MY VISITS.

EVEN THE YEAR YOU WERE IN  
SPACE ... BY THEN ENOUGH OF MY  
ESSENCE HAD **TOUCHED** YOU, YOU  
TOOK IT **WITH** YOU ... SORT OF ... AT  
THE **SAME** TIME I WAS STUCK HERE,  
I "**TRAVELED**" WITH YOU. WAY  
COOL, I MIGHT ADD.



THAT WAS THIS  
GUY'S MAGIC  
WORKING  
**OVERTIME.**

DAD'S  
FRIEND?  
**WHO?**

HE WAS **CONSPICUOUS**  
BY HIS ABSENCE DURING THE  
DINNER WE HAD...





...KENT NELSON.

HELLO, JACK. IT'S A PLEASURE.



YOU? YOU'RE THE ONE BEHIND THIS?

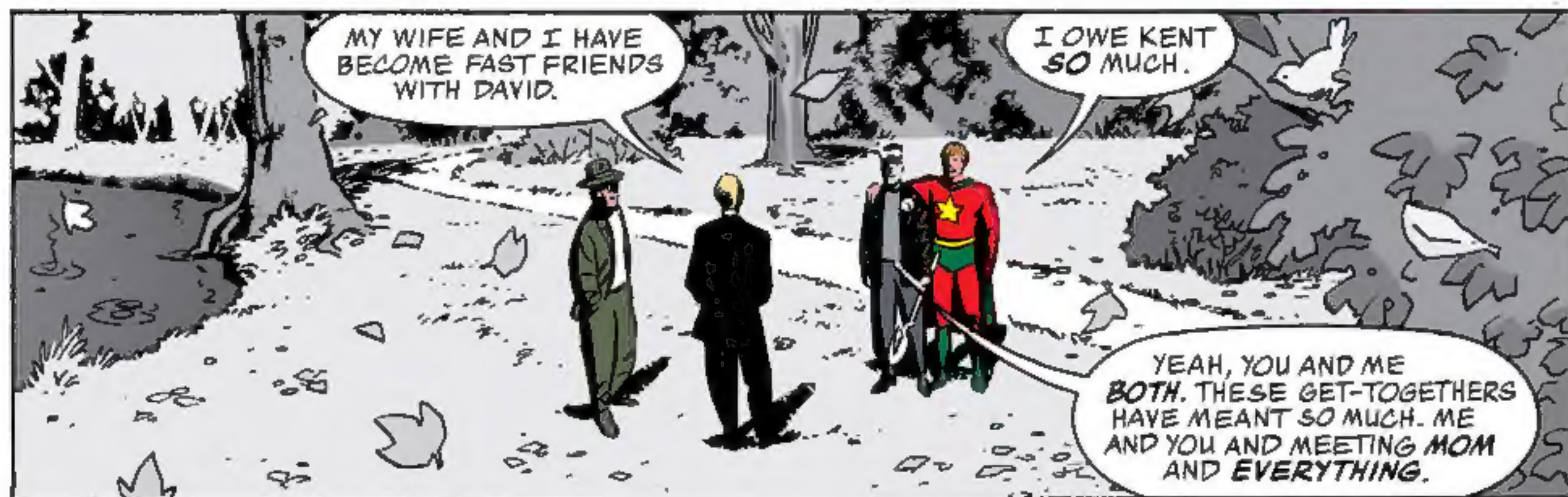
I DID WHAT I COULD. UNFORTUNATELY, NOW THE CURSE IS NO LONGER AIDING MY EFFORTS, IT'S MORE THAN MY ABILITIES TO BRING THE DEAD TO YOU MORE THAN THIS FINAL TIME.



WELL... THANK YOU FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE. ALL OF IT.

YOU DON'T KNOW THE HALF OF IT, JACK. BUT YOU WILL.

ALL RIGHT, MR. CRYPTIC. I'LL LET THAT REMARK LIE, TOO.



MY WIFE AND I HAVE BECOME FAST FRIENDS WITH DAVID.

I OWE KENT SO MUCH.

YEAH, YOU AND ME BOTH. THESE GET-TOGETHERS HAVE MEANT SO MUCH. ME AND YOU AND MEETING MOM AND EVERYTHING.

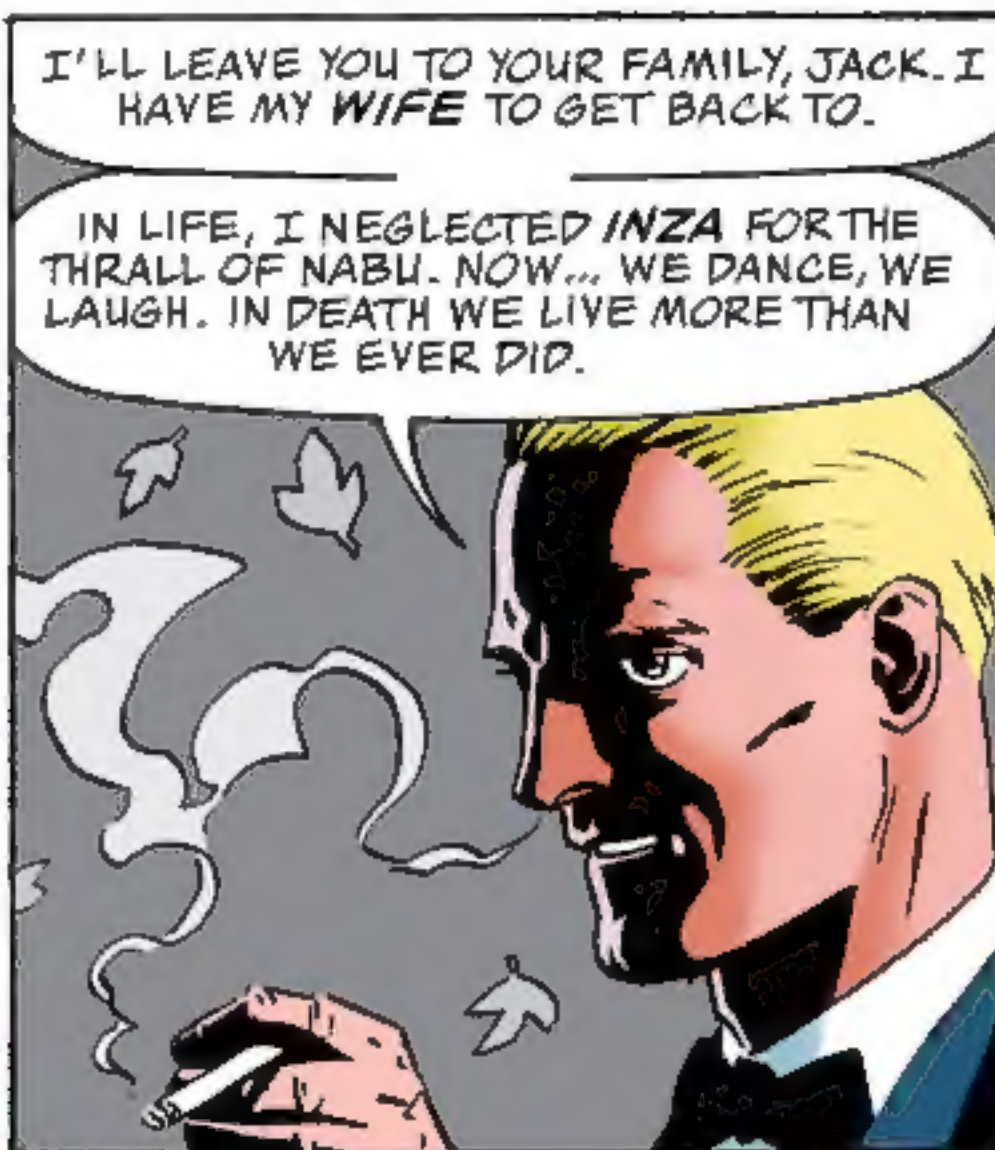


NO, KENT'S GIVEN ME SO MUCH MORE. MY GREATEST WISH.

WHAT?



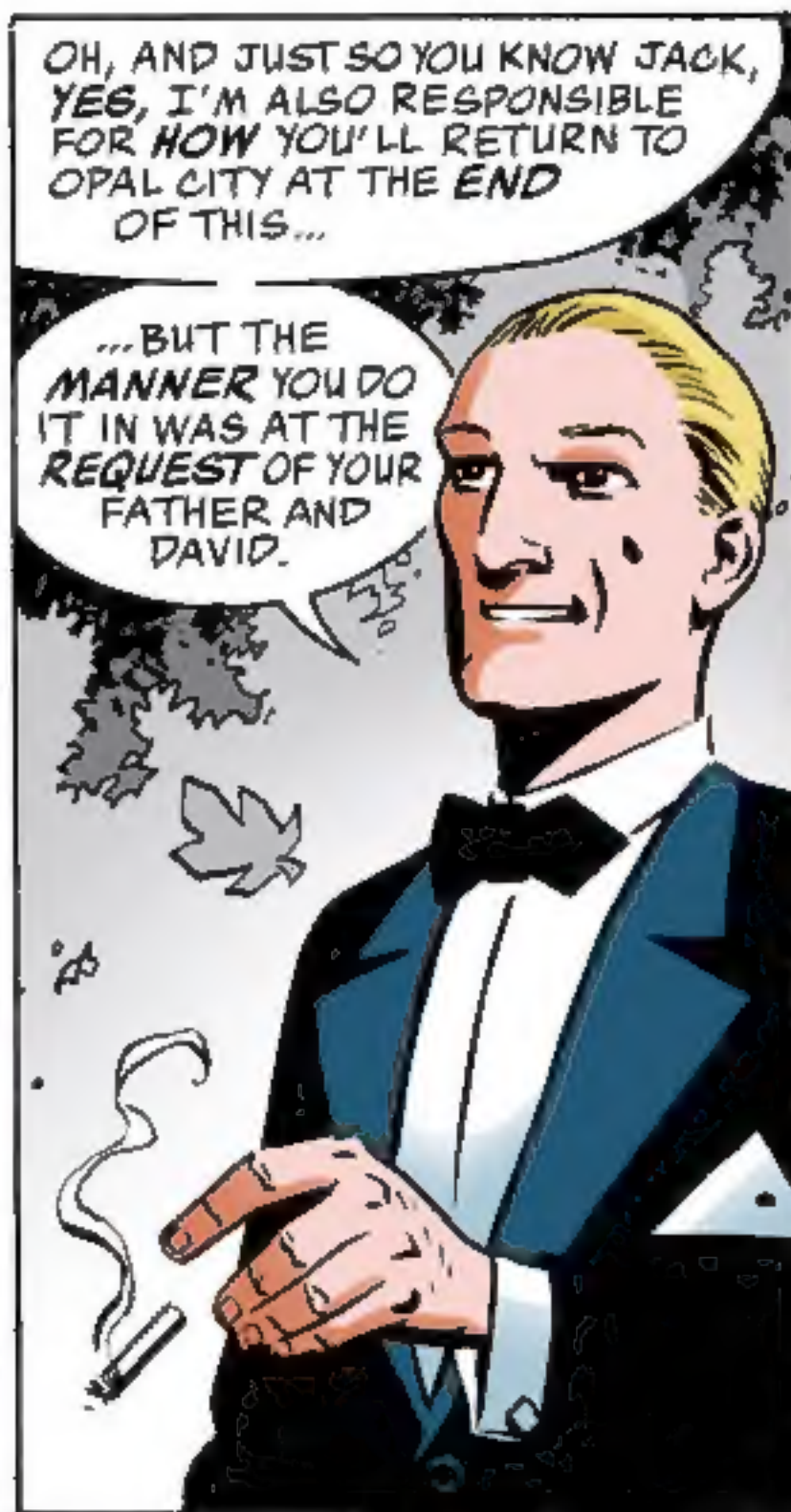
A MOMENT IN TIME.



I'LL LEAVE YOU TO YOUR FAMILY, JACK. I HAVE MY WIFE TO GET BACK TO.

IN LIFE, I NEGLECTED INZA FOR THE THRALL OF NABU. NOW... WE DANCE, WE LAUGH. IN DEATH WE LIVE MORE THAN WE EVER DID.









...STARMAN.  
THE HISTORY. THE  
NAME. FROM MAN  
TO MAN.

HERE I  
AM AT THE  
START OF  
THINGS.

BOY,  
THOSE  
WERE THE  
DAYS.

THIS IS A MOMENT FROM YOUR  
FIRST ADVENTURE?

THE IMAGE WAS  
RECORDED. MUST HAVE  
BEEN A PHOTOGRAPHER  
ON A ROOFTOP AS I WAS  
FLYING BY. IT BECAME THE  
COVER OF A COUPLE OF  
LOCAL MAGAZINES THAT  
MONTH.

"OPAL'S NEW CHAMPION." "A  
NEW STAR IS BORN." YOU CAN  
IMAGINE, THE COPY EDITORS  
HAD A FIELD DAY.

DID YOU HAVE ANY *INKLING*  
WHAT YOU'D STARTED... THAT  
YOU'D BEGUN A *LINEAGE*  
AND THE NAME STARMAN  
WOULD BE SO FAR-REACHING?

I DON'T THINK *ANY* OF  
US DID. JAY. ALAN.  
CARTER. *NONE* OF US  
DREAMED THERE'D BE  
FUTURE GENERATIONS OF  
OUR NAMES AND  
POWERS.

YOU HAVE TO REMEMBER *THEN*... NO ONE  
EVEN KNEW IF THE CONCEPT OF "MYSTERY  
MEN" WAS GOING TO STAY AROUND *MUCH*  
BEYOND THE WAR.





THIS IS YOU  
AND THE JSA.

SOME MIGHT SAY  
IT WAS MY *FINEST* HOUR.  
I KNOW THAT I'M REMEM-  
BERED FOR BEING A MEMBER  
*FAR MORE* THAN ANYTHING  
I DID ON MY OWN.

THAT'S NOT  
TRUE.

I THINK *NOW*  
PERHAPS... JACK'S  
CAREER... SOMEHOW  
THAT MAY HAVE RE-  
INVIGORATED INTER-  
EST IN *MY* PAST.  
I'M NOT SURE.

MAYBE I'M  
*IMAGINING*  
IT.

I THINK PEOPLE WERE  
ALWAYS AWARE OF THE  
NAME, DAD.

YEAH, ME TOO. IT WAS  
*YOU*. YOU CHOSE *NOT* TO  
STEP TOO FAR INTO THE  
SPOTLIGHT.

JAY GARRICK.  
ALAN SCOTT. THEY  
WERE CONSIDERED THE  
BIG GUYS. YOU *MATCHED*  
THEIR POWER, BUT--

I WAS *CONSUMED* BY THE  
STARS. I LOVE OPAL. I LIVED  
TO *PROTECT* HER, BUT GUARD-  
ING THE *GREAT BEYOND*... THERE  
WERE *OTHERS* KEENER TO  
DO THAT WORK.

THOSE EAGER TO WALK  
THE *DANGER TRAIL*.

I HAD MY  
*MENTAL PROBLEMS*,  
TOO. THAT KEPT ME  
AWAY.

WHICH OF THE JSA DID  
YOU LIKE THE MOST?

I DON'T KNOW, THEY  
WERE ALL SPECIAL. *DINAH*,  
I GUESS. SWEET, BEAUTIFUL  
*DINAH*.

ARE  
YOU WITH  
HER NOW?

I'M WITH YOUR  
*MOTHER*. *DINAH'S* WITH  
HER HUSBAND. AS IT  
*SHOULD BE*.





AND HERE'S AN  
EXAMPLE OF ME IN  
MY PRIME... FIGHTING  
THE MIST.

IT'S FUNNY TO THINK  
THAT BATTLE'S OVER  
AND DONE FOREV--



CAN YOU DO  
ME A FAVOR,  
DAD?

IF I CAN.

YOU  
CAN MAKE  
REALITY  
ANYTHING  
YOU WANT,  
RIGHT?

I SUPPOSE. IT'S ALL  
A BIT NEW TO ME.

THEN WHY ARE  
YOU STANDING HERE  
LOOKING OLD? IS THIS  
HOW YOU ARE ALL THE  
TIME?

NO. YOUR  
MOM PREFERS ME IN  
MY PRIME. I JUST  
THOUGHT THIS WOULD  
MAKE YOU MORE  
COMFORTABLE.



THAT TIME  
I SAW YOU  
YOUNG, FIGHTING  
GRUNDY... I'D LIKE  
TO SEE YOU THAT  
WAY AGAIN.

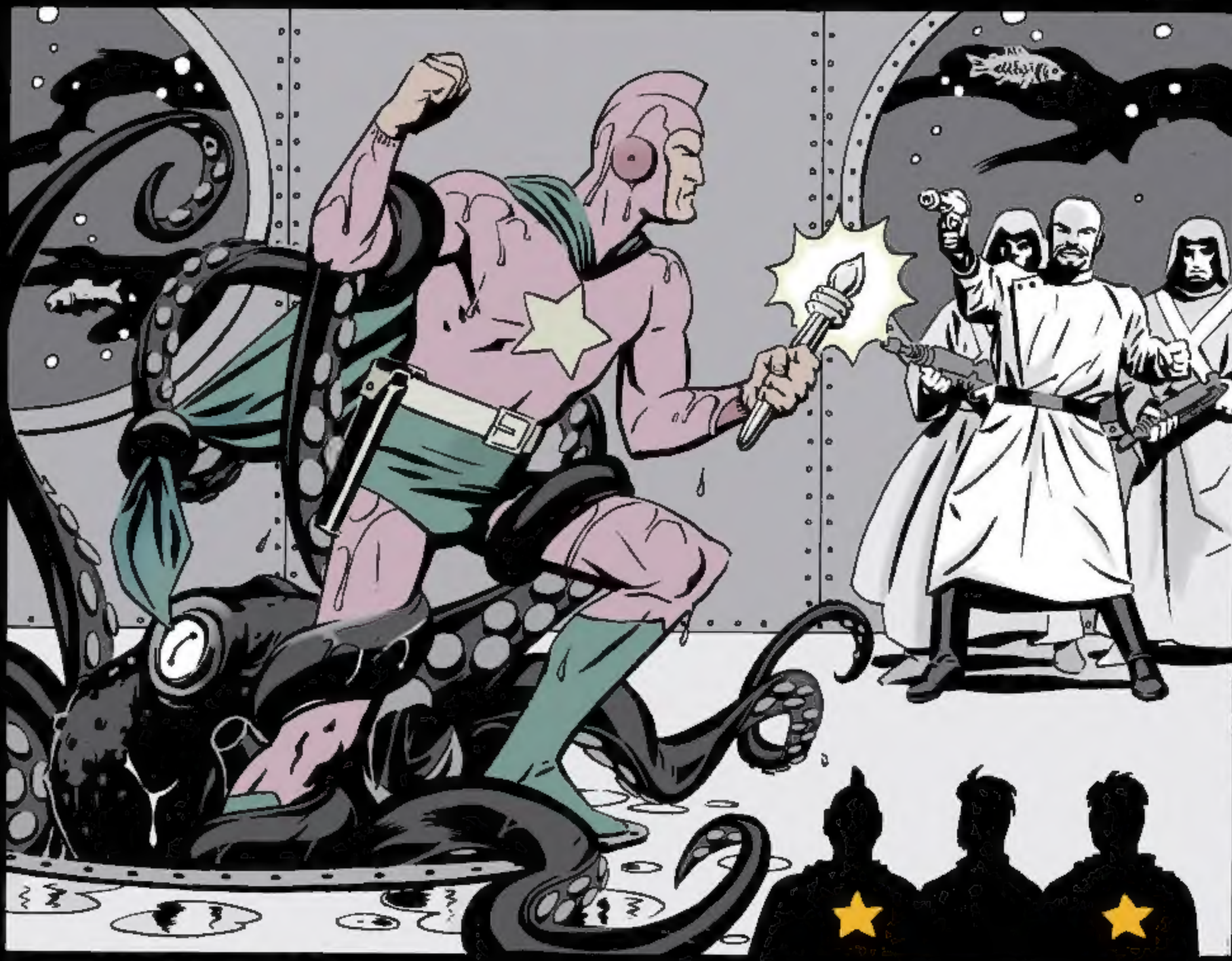


EASIER DONE  
THAN SAID.

COOL.

YEAH, WAY  
COOL.











AND HERE'S  
MIKAAL  
TOMAS.

ALIEN. DEFENDER OF OUR  
WORLD AGAINST THE INVADING  
FORCES OF HIS OWN.



HE WASN'T  
STARMAN FOR  
VERY LONG

NO, IN FACT I ONLY READ  
ONE REPORT OF HIS ACTIVITIES  
WHERE HE WAS CALLED "A  
STAR-MAN." I WAS STILL  
AROUND AT THAT TIME,  
REMEMBER. TO MOST PEOPLE,  
I WAS IT.

AND THEN HE  
VANISHED.



DIDN'T YOU  
INVESTIGATE?

HEROES COME AND GO. IT'S  
ALWAYS BEEN THAT WAY.  
STORMY FOSTER AND THE  
WHIP. J'ONN J'ONZZ FOR A  
WHILE. AND ABOUT THE TIME  
OF MIKAAL I ENCOUNTERED  
A HERO... CODE NAME:  
ASSASSIN. LOTS OF GADGETS,  
NOT MUCH FOR CONVERSATION

HE VANISHED PRACTICALLY  
THE MOMENT HE APPEARED.  
IT'S AS OFTEN THAT THEY  
SIMPLY LOSE INTER-  
EST, AS IT IS SOME  
TERRIBLE THING.



MIKAAL'S  
A GOOD  
FRIEND TO  
YOU.

YEAH, I GUESS  
HE'S MY BEST  
FRIEND. SAVED  
MY LIFE A  
BUNCH.

WILL HE EVER BE  
STARMAN AGAIN? I KNOW  
HIS SPECIES LIVES A LOT  
LONGER THAN A HUMAN.

NO. HE'S MIKAAL  
TOMAS. THAT'S  
HIS NAME

AND HE  
DOESN'T KNOW  
IT YET, BUT THE  
GREAT  
ADVENTURES OF  
HIS LIFE ARE  
AHEAD.







YOU CAN PROBABLY TELL US *MORE* ABOUT THIS NEXT FELLOW.

PRINCE GAVYN. RULER OF AN ALIEN EMPIRE. AND PROTECTOR OF THAT EMPIRE AS STARMAN.



WHAT WAS HE LIKE?

HARD FOR ME TO SAY.

WHEN I MET HIM... THE MAN IN THIS *COSTUME*, HE HAD THE MIND OF ANOTHER...

...WITH THAT *OTHER PERSON'S* WAYS AND MANNERISMS.



I HEARD THAT IN THE PAST GAVYN WAS A LITTLE TOO CAREFREE AS A PRINCE.

THEN AS A RULER HE WAS A LITTLE TOO SERIOUS.



ALL RIGHT, THEN, LET'S TALK ABOUT THE *MAN* WHO HAD GAVYN'S FORM WHEN YOU *DID* MEET HIM...



...WILL  
PAYTON.

STARMAN  
FOR  
ALMOST AS  
MUCH TIME  
AS JACK  
HERE.

DID YOU EVER DECIDE IF  
PAYTON HAD THE SOUL OF  
GAVYN?

I'M STILL SCRATCHING  
MY HEAD OVER THAT ONE.  
WILL'S SOUL WOULD BE  
IN THE AFTERLIFE IF  
GAVYN'S COSMIC ENERGY  
HIT HIM AND KILLED HIM.  
I SUGGEST YOU LOOK  
AROUND BEHIND THE  
GREAT MYSTERIOUS CUR-  
TAIN OF YOURS YOU STEP  
BEHIND WHEN YOU AND  
ME SAY GOODBYE.

DO YOU  
FEEL ANGER  
TOWARDS  
HIM?

WHY  
SHOULD  
I?

SADIE, SHE SPOKE  
WITH HER BROTHER JUST  
BEFORE SHE LEFT YOU. IT MAY  
HAVE BEEN ADVICE HE GAVE  
LED HER TO GO.

NO, I'M NOT ANGRY WITH HIM. HE  
LOVED HIS SISTER. EVEN IF HE DID  
CONVINCE HER TO GET GONE FROM  
ME, IT WAS THE SMART THING  
TO DO.

I'M  
BAD  
NEWS.

WHAT  
ABOUT SADIE?  
ARE YOU ANGRY  
WITH HER?

NO. I DON'T  
BLAME HER. LIKE  
I SAID, I'M NO  
GRAND PRIZE.

ALL I KNOW OF PAYTON IS HE WAS A  
GOOD MAN. REMEMBER, THERE  
WAS NO MOTIVATING FACTOR FOR HIS  
BECOMING A HERO. NO FATHER'S  
MEMORY TO LIVE UP TO.

NO REVENGE  
THING, LIKE  
SOME HEROES

HE DID  
GOOD BECAUSE  
HE WAS.



I RECALL MY MEETING WITH HIM.

BOY, WAS I THE DUMMY, ALL FULL OF MYSELF 'CAUSE I HAD THE KNIGHT BLOODLINE AND A COSMIC ROD.

MEANWHILE, THE MIST PLAYS ME FOR A ROYAL BOOB.

CALLS HIMSELF NIMBUS. ME, I SHOULD HAVE CALLED MYSELF "NIMROD."

PAYTON SEEMED A NICE GUY. I RECALL, AFTER THE COSMIC ROD I HAD MELTED I WANTED TO FEEL BAD... LIKE I WAS STILL THE WORTHY ONE... THE ONE WHO SHOULD HAVE HAD THE NAME STARMAN... NOT THIS HICK KID WITH THE DESERT SAND UNDER HIS FINGERNAILS



...THAT IT WAS JUST SOME DUMB TWIST OF FATE THIS UPSTART HAS THE COSMIC POWER AT THE END OF OUR ADVENTURE INSTEAD OF ME.

I WANTED TO HATE HIM.

BUT I COULDN'T. HE WAS A STRAIGHT-SHOOTER.



MAYBE A LITTLE TOO STRAIGHT... AS IN FOUR STRAIGHT LINES MAKE A SQUARE.

WHOA... DID YOU JUST SAY WHAT I THINK YOU DID?

I DROPPED A "JACK-ISM." I'M YOUR BRO. CUT ME SOME SLACK.

Err... DID I DO IT RIGHT?

YOU DID FINE.







OOOH, AND  
HERE'S A  
MOMENT IN  
TIME.

ME TAKING THE  
BIG SKIDOO TO  
OPAL CONCRETE.

DID IT  
HURT?

WHAT DO YOU  
REMEMBER?

I RECALL HEARING  
A CAR HORN, THE SOUND  
OF FLAPPING BIRDS, AND  
SOMEONE'S RADIO OR  
STEREO NEARBY *IRONI-  
CALLY* PLAYING "HURTS  
SO BAD" BY LITTLE  
ANTHONY AND THE  
IMPERIALS.



THEN, BING-BANG-BOOM,  
HERE I AM IN THE AFTERLIFE.



HOW DID  
YOU FEEL?

I WOULD HAVE  
FELT LIKE A FAILURE.  
A COMPLETE NOTHING.  
AFTER WANTING TO BE  
STARMAN FOR SO LONG...  
FINALLY... AND THEN THIS.



BUT--?

KENT NELSON  
WAS HERE TO GREET  
ME. HE...

...MADE  
THINGS  
BETTER.

BY LETTING  
YOU AND ME  
MEET.



SURE,  
AMONG OTHER  
THINGS.





HERE'S ANOTHER  
MOMENT.

YOU  
AVENGING  
YOURS.

I WISH YOU HADN'T  
SHOWN ME...  
REMINDING ME.

THE  
FACT THAT YOU  
KILLED.

I'VE KILLED  
TWICE. EACH TIME  
I FELT LIKE I'D  
MURDERED A PIECE  
OF MYSELF.



WHAT WAS GOING THROUGH  
YOUR HEAD AT THE TIME?

IT WAS  
DESPERATION.  
THERE WAS NO  
THOUGHT TO IT.  
NOT THIS  
TIME.



THE OTHER TIME.  
AN ALIEN CALLED  
MEDPHYLL, THAT WAS  
DESPERATE, TOO. IT WAS  
COMBAT. IT WAS WAR



IT  
HAUNTS  
YOU.

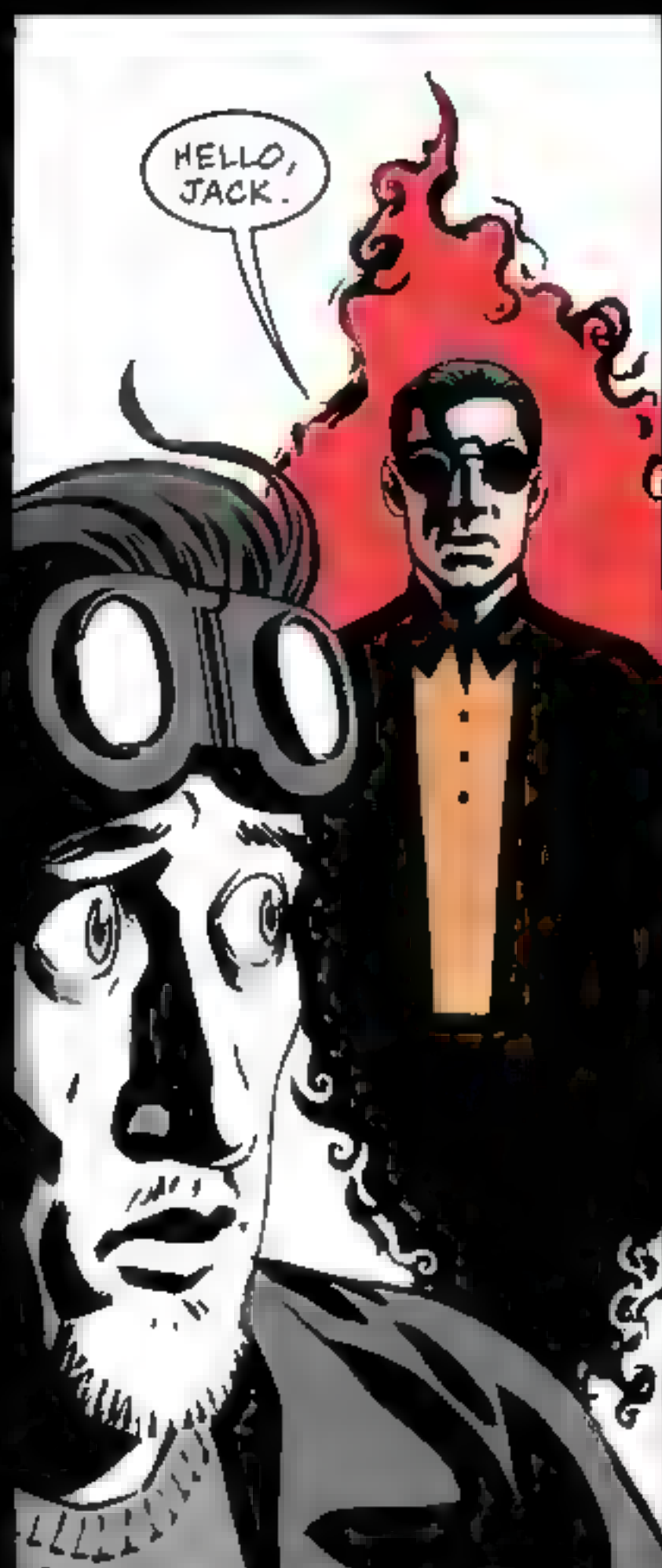
THE  
LIVES I'VE  
TAKEN HURT  
MY SOUL.

THERE'S SOMEONE  
WHO WANTS TO MEET  
YOU, JACK.

SOMEONE... WELL, I MET HIM  
A WHILE AGO... IT WAS WEIRD  
AT FIRST, BUT... HE'S OKAY.







HELLO, JACK.



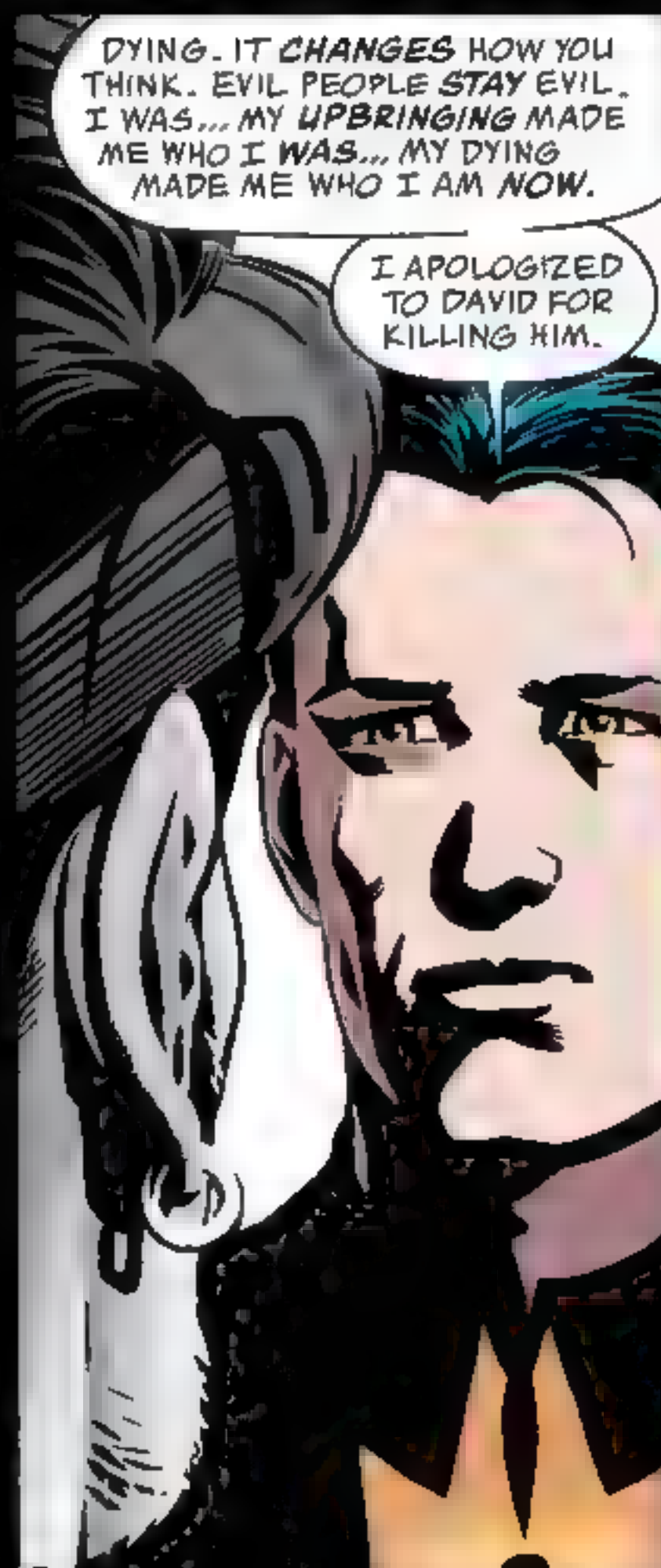
KYLE!  
KYLE,  
GOD!

WHOA, LASH  
LARUE, KEEP  
YOUR SIX-  
SHOOTER IN ITS  
HOLSTER!



KYLE  
WANTED TO  
SEE YOU.

I  
KNOW THIS  
IS **AWKWARD**,  
BUT--



DYING. IT CHANGES HOW YOU  
THINK. EVIL PEOPLE *STAY* EVIL.  
I WAS... MY UPBRINGING MADE  
ME WHO I WAS... MY DYING  
MADE ME WHO I AM NOW.

I APOLOGIZED  
TO DAVID FOR  
KILLING HIM.



I WANTED TO APOLOGIZE  
TO YOU, TOO. FOR DRIVING  
YOU TO MURDER.

I'M SORRY FOR  
WHAT I DID... WHAT  
I MADE YOU DO.

EFF...





SO, ANYTHING ELSE YOU  
WANT TO SHOW ME?

NO. YOU'VE LIVED  
THE LIFE. YOU KNOW  
WHAT YOU DID.

ANYTHING YOU'D LIKE  
TO SHOW US?

ANY MOMENT  
YOU'RE PARTICULARLY  
PROUD OF?

ME AND  
WESLEY  
DODDS.

THAT'S A  
MEMORY I  
TREASURE.  
APART FROM  
THAT--

I'M TOO MUCH IN THAT  
LIFE TO GET ANY GLIMMER  
OF PAST GLORY FROM IT.

THEN I GUESS  
THAT'S IT, JACK.  
STARMAN. SO  
ENDETH THE  
LESSON.





SO THIS IS IT, DAD. GOODBYE.

I'M GLAD I GOT TO SEE YOU AGAIN. I'M SO GLAD.



SO WHAT IS IT YOU WANT TO TELL ME, JACK?

FATHERS KNOW SONS.

HOW DO YOU KNOW I HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY?



FIRST THING... SO I GET IT OUT BEFORE SOME FLASH OF LIGHT OR THUNDERBOLT SEPARATES US FOR THE FINAL TIME...



I LOVE YOU, DAD.



I KNOW. I'VE ALWAYS KNOWN. I LOVE YOU TOO, SON.

I LOVE YOU, TOO.



WHAT'S THE SECOND THING, JACK?

I THINK I'M DONE WITH STARMAN.



I MEAN IT'S *NOT* THAT BY THIS POINT I DON'T *DIG* ASPECTS OF THE LIFE. IT'S COOL. THE *FLYING*. SOME OF THE FIGHTING... THE GENERAL *FEELING* OF BEING STARMAN, PROTECTOR OF OPAL.

BUT I HAVE A *SON* NOW. HE *NEEDS* ME. AND I *DON'T* WANT TO RISK THERE BEING A TIME HE HAS TO *FACE* THE WORLD NEEDING A FATHER'S *ADVICE* AND ALL HE GETS BACK IS THE *ECHO* OF HIS OWN *UNCERTAIN* THOUGHTS.

LIKE YOU HAD SOME OF THE TIME, RIGHT?

WHEN I THOUGHT YOU'D *DIED*, SURE.

STARMAN... IT'S *PART* OF ME. IT ALWAYS *WILL* BE.

BUT I FEEL IT'S *TIME* TO MOVE ON.

SUPERMAN SAID--

*SUPERMAN?*

--HE SAID *SOME* HEROES ARE IN IT FOR THE *LONG HAUL*. SOME *AREN'T*. I GUESS I'M AN "*AREN'T*."

I GUESS SO.

YOU *DON'T* MIND?

THERE WILL *ALWAYS* BE A STARMAN. YOU *WERE*. NOW SOMEONE *ELSE* WILL.

THAT SIMPLE?

NOT EVERYTHING'S A TENNESSEE WILLIAMS DRAMA. *REMEMBER*, JACK, SUPER- OR SIMPLY *HUMAN*, I'M PROUD OF YOU. AND I KNOW YOU'LL MAKE A *MAGNIFICENT* FATHER.

Err, TIME'S UP, DAD.

THIS REALLY IS *GOODBYE*, JACK. FOR NOW.

ONE DAY I'LL SEE YOU AGAIN.

NOT FOR A LONG WHILE.

GOODBYE, DAVEY.









ALL  
RIGHT, BUDDY!!  
RAISE YOUR  
HANDS!!

NEXT:

1951



# Deadman Wade

"THIS IS WHAT  
AWESOME  
LOOKS LIKE".

DCP